

Wickham Bishops Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Mrs A Mickelsen (Chairman)
I D Wardrop (Vice-Chairman)
H M Bass
P J Bates
I S F MacGregor
R Mundell
S J Nicholas
J Williams



Winner Best Kept Village 2009, 2015
3rd Place Essex Village of the Year 2015
www.wickhambishopsparishcouncil.org

Parish Clerk

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MINUTES of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Boardroom	
Item	Subject
18/184	Those Present and Apologies for Absence In the chair: Cllr Mickelsen Present: Cllrs Bass, Bates, MacGregor, Wardrop and Williams; the Clerk. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Mundell and Nicholas. There were five members of the public present including the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Ms Sian Bewick.
18/185	Declaration of Interests and Compliance with the Ethical Framework Cllr Mickelsen declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18/190 application <i>18/01124 Beacon Hill Sports Association Tennis Courts</i> due to her membership of the Tennis Club. The Clerk confirmed that where the Parish Council had an Interest in an agenda item, it did not follow that individual councillors had an Interest.
18/186	Approval of Minutes Resolved: that with the amendment of item 18/177 to "...residents of Grange Road..." the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 th September 2018 be approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wardrop, seconded Cllr Mickelsen.
18/187	Public Forum A member of the public spoke on behalf of application <i>18/01124/FUL - Beacon Hill Sports Association Tennis Courts</i> , referring to improved floodlighting and increased efficiency with reduced light pollution. Acknowledging that District Councillors are not obliged to agree with the Parish Council's views on planning applications, a member of the public urged the Ward Members to give an explanation when voting against their parish, for transparency. The resident expressed concerns about Maldon District Council's apparent lack of deliberation when approving application <i>RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane</i> . A member of the public refuted some of the comments made about application <i>RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane</i> . The Chairman introduced Mr Karl Jarvis, applicant to the vacant Councillor role, to the meeting. Mr Jarvis spoke on behalf of his application, highlighting his local knowledge and experience. The Chairman explained that the second applicant was unable to attend but would be considered for the role.
18/188	Chairman's Report Cllr Mickelsen had met with the Chairman of Writtle Parish Council, and discussed their experience of using private security for Writtle parish. The Chairman was grateful to the members of the public, Tennis Club and Councillors who volunteered at the September litter pick. Disappointingly, some roads were left untended due to a lack of support. Thanks were also given to the Clerk and her family for the WW1 commemorative soldier silhouette installation, and to the resident who had decorated the area with artificial poppies. The Chairman was pleased to report excellent progress of the repainting of the village sign by a local volunteer.

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18/189	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk was happy to note that the developer of <i>Land East of Malone Cottage</i> had chosen Rosina Place and Heron Way for the new street names.</p> <p>A problem with dog fouling outside Bishops Court was reported by a resident to the Clerk. The dog owner responsible had subsequently been dealt with by the District Dog Warden.</p> <p>The second grant application for the Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted, for an amount of £3,500. The Clerk had received several calls and emails from a landowner interested in the Plan development.</p> <p>Noting the short deadline to nominate three minor highways fixes for prioritisation by Essex County Council, and after taking advice from Members, the Clerk exercised her delegated authority to nominate the footway damage outside 16 Blacksmiths Lane and potholes to the west side of Church Green and along Spring Lane. Visibility problems at Blue Mills bridge repeatedly caused by vegetation would also be raised.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to respond to Cllr Durham CC and to raise suitable Essex Highways requests.</i></p>
18/190	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions</p> <p>Cllr Mickelsen explained that, whilst the Parish Council is consulted on all applications, the District Council will make the final decision. D/Cllr Bass refrained from voting on the applications due to the possibility of his involvement in determining the applications at MDC.</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p><u>18/01124/FUL - Beacon Hill Sports Association Tennis Courts, Great Totham Road</u></p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p><u>18/00703/RES - Land East of Malone Cottage Maypole Road</u></p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Councillors considered the provision of a new path, linking Maypole Road to Great Totham Road, would offer a sustainable increase in parish connectivity in line with the aims of the Parish Plan and draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p><u>15/00419/OUT - Land at Broad Street Green Rd, Maypole Road and Langford Road</u></p> <p>No letters of representation had been received.</p> <p>Councillors had no further comments to make on the scheme and reiterated the desire for the S106 Agreement to provide traffic calming measures along Maypole Road, The Street and Witham Road.</p> <p>Resolved: The Parish Council recommended NO FURTHER COMMENT. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to Maldon District Council enquiring about the S106 Agreement.</i></p> <p>There were no delegated decisions made by the Parish Clerk or Planning Inspectorate decisions to note.</p> <p><u>Approval of application RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane by Maldon District Council</u></p> <p>The Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr MacGregor, reported that he left Maldon District Council's August Northwest Planning Meeting with the feeling that his comments had not been heard by the Committee. He was also of the view that the parish's District Councillors had not represented or referred to the Parish Council's views or the solicitor's letter from a member of the public. Cllr Wardrop concurred, citing the speed of the decision.</p> <p>The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Mickelsen, highlighted the main issues to be of District Councillor accountability and loss of Parish Council influence on the planning process. D/Cllr Bass refuted any suggestion that he personally had ignored the Parish Council's comments, and stated he was happy to explain to the Parish Council his reasoning, on those few occasions he felt compelled to vote against the Parish Council's recommendation.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to D/Cllrs Bass and Durham confirming the Parish Council's desire to be informed following a contrary vote.</i></p> <p>A member of the public left the meeting.</p>

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18/191	Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Williams, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, expressed the team's gratitude to Ms Leonie Alpin of Maldon District Council for her extensive support. A strategic environmental assessment was planned with the Regulation 14 draft plan consultation hoped to commence 16 th November 2018. Action: Cllr Bates to update the website with the expected draft plan availability.
18/192	Monthly Councillor Surgeries There were four visitors with five queries at the 15 th September Surgery. Traffic issues around Chantry Grove were thought to be connected to outdated SatNav systems. Action: The Clerk to contact Ms Wendy Tillett of Maldon District Council to request "No Through Road" additions or replacements to the Chantry Grove, Church Close and Leigh Drive street signs. Action: The Clerk to contact the Witham Town Council Clerk to request the obstruction be cleared from the Maldon Road sign at the junction with Blue Mills Hill. Attendees at the 20 th October Surgery will be Cllrs Mickelsen and Wardrop.
18/193	District Council Report A request from Cllr Bentley CC, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, to the District Council to provide match funding for pothole filling, had been rejected. D/Cllr Bass had written to Braintree D/Cllr Beavis to reschedule the delayed meeting to progress the Maldon Road/Blue Mills Hill traffic lights extension. The reorganisation of Maldon District Council was continuing and causing some disruption to work. D/Cllr Bass had arranged for the Enforcement team to investigate a possible issue in Chantry Wood.
18/194	Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report The NHW Coordinator described an increase in the incidence of crime, both locally and nationally. Ms Bewick stressed that all suspicious activity should be reported to the 101 service to allow the Police to monitor trends and gather intelligence. The recent upswing in criminal activity had led to the Police adopting a more visible presence in Wickham Bishops. An NHW Facebook page is being set up to provide greater communication. There are still some roads without NHW representatives and residents were urged to contact Ms Bewick if they are able to help. Action: The Clerk to liaise with the Library team over NHW attendance at the Saturday Surgeries. A member of the public left the meeting.
18/195	Battle's Over Soldier Silhouette Resolved: The Parish Council would retain the silhouette after the 11 th November remembrance event and install it to or near the air raid shelter. Proposed Cllr MacGregor, seconded Cllr Wardrop. Action: Cllr Bates to provide the names of the fallen to Cllr Williams, who would write the names on the silhouette prior to 11 th November. Action: The Clerk to provide a suitable paint pen.
18/196	Devolution and Public Realm/Highway Services Councillors considered the benefits and drawbacks of engaging with the devolution of Highways Services. No motion was put forward to take part in the pilot scheme.
18/197	Community Special Constables Cllr Mickelsen reported that the process would take at least 18 months to recruit and train a Special Constable. Writtle Parish Council's experience was that once trained there was no guarantee the Special Constable would remain in the area. No motion was put forward to take part in the scheme.
18/198	Finance Resolved: The balances were noted and the list of payments agreed. Proposed Cllr Mickelsen, seconded Cllr MacGregor.
18/199	Correspondence to Note: The background report to application RES/MAL/16/01475 - The Summer House Back Lane from Mr David Pearl was noted.

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18/200	<p>Progress Reports from Councillors and Committees – <i>no decisions required</i></p> <p>There was no update from the Local Highways Panel meeting on 28th September. Cllr Wardrop advised that speed surveys had been undertaken and the Speed Indicating Devices had been relocated. The extension to the TRUCAM contract had been communicated to the Community Protection Team and Cllr Wardrop would be attending a TRUCAM session. Speedwatch activity had been high during the month.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Remembrance Day service would begin at 2.30pm with wreath laying at the War Memorial, followed by the Battle's Over Commemoration at 6.30pm. The beacon would be lit at 7pm. Cllr Mickelsen would read out the names of the fallen from Wickham Bishops and Cllr Bass had asked the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP to lay the MP's wreath.</p> <p>Action: <i>The Clerk to write to D/Cllr Durham CC to enquire about the future of the library.</i></p>
18/201	<p>General Village News</p> <p>There had been several complaints, to Councillors and on social media, regarding the frequent closures of One Stop while deliveries took place. It was understood this was due to the new delivery company's policy that drivers remain in the vehicle and are unable to help counter staff unload the goods. Social media reports indicated new staff were due to join One Stop which would improve the staffing situation.</p>
18/202	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 19th October 2018 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i> - Tuesday 6th November Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm - Friday 23rd November 2018 Finance Committee Meeting at 10.30am - Friday 23rd November 2018 Planning Committee Meeting at 11.30am <i>if required</i>
18/203	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>Resolved: That, in accordance with <i>s.1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960</i>, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting as there existed a need to consider recommendations from sources other than members, committees or sub-committees and that this therefore constituted a special reason why publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest. Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Bates.</p> <p>Three members of the public left the meeting.</p>
18/204	<p>Co-Option of Councillor</p> <p>Councillors noted that both candidates had excellent credentials. Following discussion, Mr Karl Jarvis was selected by ballot.</p>
18/205	<p>Close of Meeting 10.00pm</p> <p>Items for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of Pre-Application Protocol (November) - Consideration of nominating the library building as an Asset of Community Value (November) - Consideration of commissioning plaques explaining the origins of local road names (Finance) - Budget and precept approval (December)